



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6960 | FAX (517) 373.0897

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/

For Immediate Release
June 26, 2003

Contact: Senator Ron Jelinek
1-866-305-2121

Prescription Drug Assistance Program to Begin July 1

Cass County Rx Drug Task Force announces new program.

LANSING - In an effort to combat escalating prescription drug costs and alleviate hardships for seniors in Cass County, the RX C.O.P.E. (Community Options for Prescription Enhancement) program will begin July 1 announced state Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, along with Reps. Rick Shaffer, R-Three Rivers, and Neal Nitz, R-Baroda.

RX C.O.P.E. will assist qualified seniors in assessing their eligibility for Patient Assistance programs sponsored by over 50 drug companies in completing the necessary paperwork to apply for these programs. RX C.O.P.E. will also provide coordination for the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program and the state's Emergency Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) applications.

Jelinek, Shaffer and Nitz were recently named as advisors to the local task force tackling the issue of prescription drugs for Cass County seniors. Established by Cass County Commissioner Jack Teter, the group aimed to create a one-stop resource to assist seniors in getting the medication they need.

"Our task force reached its goal in developing and implementing a program to help seniors get the prescription drugs they need in a cost efficient and timely manner," said Jelinek. "I congratulate all those who gave their time and efforts to making this program a reality and share in the caring for our seniors."

(More)

The task force was composed of many experienced advocates, including: Sue Colley and Tom Bennett, COA; Lynn Kellogg, Area Agency on Aging; Rev. Mattie Roddy, Michigan Senior Advocacy Council; Ruth Andrews, Human Services Coordinating Council; Marian Teter, president, Prudential One Realty, Chris Kadulski, Cass County FIA director; Probate Judge Susan Dobrich; County Board of Commissioners Chairman Johnie Rodebush; County Administrator Terry Proctor; his Administrative Assistant Tara Myer, Chemical Bank Vice President Eileen Toney and Borgess-Lee memorial Hospital social worker Meri Terbough.

Serving as advisors to the task force were: Sen. Jelinek, represented by staffer Chris Siebenmark; Rep. Shaffer; Rep. Nitz; Scott Teter, Michigan Attorney General's office; William Howe, Pfizer government relations director; Jennifer Wrzeskinski, Pfizer executive assistant; and Dr. Jessie Hsieh, Granger, Ind. Family Medicine.